United Nations A/63/522–S/2008/691

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 November 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 83
Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 6 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to address you and to convey to you the concern and disappointment of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia regarding the recent events that took place in Thessalonica, Greece, on 28 October 2008, during the military parade on the occasion of the national day commemorating the refusal of Greece to join the fascist ideology in 1940.

Unfortunately, instead of having a parade where the values of the world civilization, justice, rights and freedoms of peoples should have been demonstrated, the Thessalonica parade, four years in a row, has been turned into a parade of demonstration of open nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia aimed at the people of the Republic of Macedonia. Also, an even greater concern, is the fact that this event is a continuation in the series of provocations on the part of Greece in the past period.

Furthermore, today, when the negotiations on the name dispute have reached their critical point since the time of their commencement, the military forces of Greece, in front of Greece's governmental elite, and in the presence of the President of the country, Karolos Papulias, the Minister of Defence, Evangelos Meimarakis, the President of PASOK, Jorgos Papandreu, Prefect, Panaiotis Psomiadis, the Mayor of Thessalonica, Vasilis Papageorgopulos, and Metropolitan Antimos, as well as the accredited diplomatic core and military attachés in Greece, the Ministers of Defence of Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and Montenegro, and the Deputy Ministers of Defence of Croatia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania, have shown great State nationalism and provocation directed against the Republic of Macedonia, shouting out slogans: "We will not give the name to the Skopjanians", "Macedonia is Greek", and even worse, "Your sons are waiting for an order".

The horrible image, publicly shown of this manifestation in a country considered to be the cradle of democracy, member State of the North Atlantic Treaty

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Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU), broadcast on the national television network ET 1 TV, was complemented by the official address of the President of the War Veterans to the Greek nation, who, at the end of the parade, among other things said: "You can find yourselves with the Skopjanians again on the first line", which is not appropriate rhetoric by itself.

Since its independence, the Republic of Macedonia has invested a great amount in the building of good-neighbourly relations, actively contributing to regional peace and stability. The Republic of Macedonia has never been an initiator or instigator of any security incidents with its neighbours, including Greece.

The Republic of Macedonia strongly condemns all shows of outburst that contain hatred, xenophobia and intolerance. Such activities have never contributed to the building of good-neighbourly relations, which is one of the fundamental values of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, NATO and EU, as well as to the confidence between the two countries.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Slobodan **Tasovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations